(iii) On accidental death the policy holder can have cover to the extent of triple the Sum Assured;

(iv) On death during the term of the policy which may be 15, 20 or 25 years, Sum Assured will be payable without any deduction of the periodic Survival Benefits and the surgical benefits already paid; and

(v) On maturity the policyholder will be eligible for Sum Assured less the survival benefit and surgical benefit paid earlier.

Settlement of Bad Debts of Farmers in Bihar

2270. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a specific representation has been receieved by Government to organise settlement of debts between farmers, rural entrepreneurs and nationalised banks in Bihar;

(b) whether it is fact that nationalised banks in Bihar are not coming forward to properly consider the applications of indebted farmers and rural entrepreneurs for settlement of their debts;

(c) what steps Government have taken to initiate a dialogue on the mentioned representation; and

(d) whether any meeting has been called to discuss steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) No specific representation to organise settlement of debts between farmers, rural entrepreneurs and nationalised banks in Bihar nor any specific complaint that nationalised banks in Bihar are not coming forward to settle the debts of farmers has been received in the Banking Division of Ministry of Finance. However, the Central Government has taken steps to provide appropriate relief to chronic defaulting farmers. Instructions have been issued by Reserve Bank of India to all scheduled commercial banks to go for one time settlement of overdues of chronic defaulting farmers who are unable to pay back bank's dues due to circumstances beyond their control.

नीमच, मध्य प्रदेश की संस्था "एन्टी ड्रग मूवमेंट" द्वारा ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत किया जाना

2271. **श्री बालकवि बैरागी:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या नीमच (मध्य प्रदेश) की संस्था "एन्टी ड्रग मूवमेंट" ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के ड्रग कन्ट्रोल प्रोग्राम के भारत स्थित कार्यालय को मालवा-मेवाड़ अंचल में होने वाली अफीम की खेती के बारे में एक जांच रिपोर्ट तथा एक तथ्यात्मक सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट भेजकर इस क्षेत्र में संयुक्त राष्ट्र का प्रेक्षक-दल भेजने की मांग करते हुए इस संबंध में उनके मंत्रालय को कोई ज्ञापन दिया है; और

(ख) कया इस संस्था ने उपरोक्त भाग "क" में वर्णित क्षेत्र में अफीम की खेती में होने वाले भ्रष्टाचार और विसंगतियों की सी०बी०आई से जांच कराने की कोई मांग की है?

वित्त मंत्रालय (बैंकिंग, राजस्व तथा बीमा) में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादम्बूर एम०आर० जनार्दनन): (क) महोदय "एन्टी ड्रग मूवमेंट" नामक संगठन से राजस्व विभाग को कोई ज्ञापन प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। तथापि श्री सुरेन्द्र सेठी द्वारा अफीम के कृषकों को कथित रूप से परेशान किए जाने के संबंध में मध्य प्रदेश के राज्यपाल को प्रस्तुत अभ्यावेदन की प्रति इस विभाग में प्राप्त हुई है।

(ख) मध्य प्रदेश के राज्यपाल को संबोधित अभ्यावेदन में श्री सेठी ने किसी मुख्य जांच एजेंसी अथवा उच्च शक्ति प्राप्त जांच आयोग द्वारा दौरा करने का सुझाव दिया है।

Representation from Resin, Turpentine and Camphor Industry

2272. SHRIMATI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from Resin,

Turpentine and Camphor Industry, State Governments and MP's regarding fast developing crisis taking heavy toll of labour intensive small scale units rendering thousands of workers unemployed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken to provide a package of incentives for sustainable growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Several representations have been received from trade associations and MP's seeking abolition of import duty on Oleopine resin (OPR). Some states have represented against reduction in the import duty on OPR. Representations have also been received for exempting camphor from excise duty.

(c) The said representations were examined as part of the budget exercise for 1999-2000 and it was decided not to exempt oleopine resin from import duty or exempt camphor from excise duty.

Guns aeized by Customs Authorities

2273. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of guns seized by the Customs authorities since April, 1995 and their disposal;

(b) the Customs sale price of the guns and their market prices category-wise; and

(c) the reasons for fixing so low sale price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) 132 Nos. of Guns/fire arms (including Pistols, Revolvers, Rifles, Shotguns and Air Guns) are reported to have been seized by the officer of the Customs Department, since April, 1995. During the said period, 173 fire arms/guns (including Pistols, Revolvers and Rifles) have been disposed of.

(b) and (c) The customs are presently selling the weapons, on request and availability, to the Members of Parliament only, for their personal safety and these can not be further disposed of. The sale price of fire arms including guns, which is fixed in accordance with the laid down guidelines, vary with the type, model and category i.e. rifle, revolver, pistols etc. and the customs sale prices range between Rs. 5000/- and Rs. 41,000/-. Import of fire arms are restricted and sale of fire arms—where import permitted—is also prohibited. Open market prices of imported guns are not available and hence it is not possible to comment on the degree of difference between the sale price of customs and actual market prices. The pricing policy is, however, under review.

Controlling Government Expenditure

2274. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total Central Government expenditure estimated in 1998-99;

(b) what is the percentage increase in total Central Government expenditure in 1998-99 as compared to 1997-98;

(c) whether Government had imposed a 10 percent cut in non-plan expenditure;

(d) whether any cut in plan expenditure was also suggested;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons for not controlling Government expenditure?